

through uncompromising resistance to commonsense voter protections, will they side with Republican legislatures across the country that are restricting the voting rights in a way that hurts African Americans, Latinos, and younger and poorer Americans? The choice is theirs.

Two final points on this. No. 1, Donald Trump spread the “big lie.” We all know it was a big lie that there was massive fraud in the elections. Instead of resisting that lie—so harmful to our democracy because when people don’t have faith in the electoral process, it withers faith in our very democracy—so many Republicans in State legislatures and here in the Senate, unfortunately, are spreading that lie.

Second, what has been the tradition of America? It has been to improve the right to vote. At the time of the Constitution, in many States, you had to be a White male Protestant property owner to vote. We have improved on that. We have improved on that beginning in many different ways through the years. What the Republican legislatures are taking is a giant setback—a giant step back in the progress we have made to making this a more perfect union.

Will the Republican Senate, in the Rules Committee tomorrow and later on the floor of the Senate when they bring the bill forward, participate in improving on democracy or in helping, aiding, and abetting the big lie and the giant step backward?

Finally, on State and local aid, today the Treasury Department launched a \$350 billion program to deliver aid to State and local governments—funding that Democrats in Congress provided through the American Rescue Plan. After fighting this pandemic on the frontlines, State and local governments in New York and across the country needed help, and they needed it quickly to keep frontline workers on the job and prevent brutal service cuts. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan and the Treasury Department’s announcement this morning, we can finally say that help is on the way to State and local governments.

Eligible State, territorial, city, county, and Tribal governments will be able to access funding directly from the Treasury Department in the coming days. State and local governments now need to file applications with Treasury. Once they are processed, money will begin flowing. Let me say that again. State, local, and Tribal governments should prepare to file applications with the Treasury Department for assistance, and I am told the assistance will be quickly forthcoming.

And, State and local government, it is not only available, it is flexible. The Biden administration deserves credit for providing clear guidance in broad categories for spending the money, letting States make their own decisions about how to allocate funds to recover from the pandemic and address immediate needs. Whether it is to support

public health systems, small businesses, necessary infrastructure, hard-hit industries like tourism, or premium pay for essential workers, States can use the funding we passed in the American Rescue Plan to help their constituents and their economy recover in a variety of ways.

The Treasury Department’s announcement today begins the process of delivering the resources our States and municipalities need to prevent layoffs, keep essential services running, and boost Main Street businesses from one end of the country to the other.

I was proud to successfully push for robust State and local funding in the American Rescue Plan, and I will continue to work with the Biden administration as this funding is distributed.

I yield the floor.

No, I don’t yield the floor. I finished my speech, but I have another activity or two to do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 108.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 109.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 109, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 110.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 110, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 112.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 112, Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Ossoff, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ron Wyden, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Jon Tester, Edward J. Markey, John Hickenlooper, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 10, be waived.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APRIL JOBS REPORT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, some economists have another name for the recession that we are living through, the one that was caused by the COVID pandemic. They call it a "she-session" because the economic hardships and job losses have fallen disproportionately on women, especially on working mothers. It is ironic that we are having this conversation the day after Mother's Day and reflecting on the current state of American families in the midst of a pandemic but, equally important, on the state of American families and the state of the mothers of those families and the economic realities that they face.

There are 2.5 million American women who have dropped out or were

pushed out of the workforce since the start of this pandemic. In a recent ABC News poll, 25 percent of women said they are worse off economically now than they were a year ago compared to 18 percent of men. A survey last fall found that almost 40 percent of working mothers in my State of Illinois—40 percent—lost their jobs or are working reduced hours. Nearly half of all working mothers of color reported the same.

There are many reasons that this recession has been so economically devastating for so many women, but the two biggest reasons are these: Women are overrepresented in the industries that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic: restaurants, retail, leisure and hospitality. Women are also the primary caregivers—in some cases, the only caregivers—in the vast majority of American families. With schools and childcare programs closed, what choice does a working mother have besides stepping back from work?

For millions of American mothers and their families, the stimulus payments, the enhanced unemployment checks, the increased child tax credits, and other economic benefits in the American Rescue Plan have literally been a lifeline. They have enabled these mothers and families to feed their kids and to keep their homes during the worst recession since the Great Depression.

So it has come as a bit of a surprise that our Republican colleagues would choose to start Mother's Day weekend by vowing to end enhanced unemployment benefits for more than 8 million American workers. They cite the April jobs report as their justification. After we added 770,000 jobs in March—a strong showing—we learned last week the U.S. economy added only 266,000 jobs in April. Immediately, our Republican colleagues cited the disappointing jobs numbers as proof that the recovery has clearly stalled and that we have to do more to get people back to work, as if it justifies ending enhanced jobless benefits.

They seem to think that additional unemployment benefits make American workers lazy. They imply that Americans would rather sit at home, watch nonstop Netflix, and eat chocolate-covered cherries rather than go back to work. They must not know many American workers. Americans want to work. Americans work longer and harder than their counterparts in almost every nation in the world. We should be proud of that work ethic and what it has meant to America.

The reason many workers haven't returned to the workplace isn't because they are lazy. People remain afraid of this coronavirus. They lack adequate, affordable childcare. They may be caring for older family members or be dealing with personal health conditions. That is the reality of life in families and, particularly, in struggling, working families. Taking away the enhanced unemployment benefits they need to be able to feed their kids and